(c) what is the total number of such tax consultants and income tax officials involved in this racket?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) to (c) Information is being collected and shall be laid on the Table of the House.

Closure of Branches of various Banks

2136. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that over hundred branches of various banks are likely to be closed during the next financial year, if so, the bank-wise, location wise details thereof;

(b) what is the criterian used for closing the banks or branches of the bank;

(c) whether it is a fact that Government to introduce satellite branches banks; and

(d) to what extent this move of closure of all as satellite branches will effect the existing employments and em- [illegible] ia'?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DR. ABRAR AHMED): (a) to (d) Public Sector Banks have been given freedom by Reserve Bank of India to close down their unviable and loss making branches or to convert them into satellite offices. While closure of loss making branches at rural centres having a single commercial bank branches is not considered desirable, at centres served by two commercial bank branches (excluding Regional Rural Banks) the decision for closure of one of the branches was left to the discretion of the banks through a progress of a natural consultation. The banks' proposal for closing of loss making branches located at well-banked urban/metropolitan centres will be considered and permitted by Reserve Bank of India. There is, however no move to retrench the employees of branches considered for closure and they will be productively redeployed in other activity such as internal audit, recovery, etc. The number of estimated branches proposed to be closed by nationalised banks by 31-3-1994 are given below:

Name of the Bank	No. of estimated branches proposed to be closed by 31-3-1994.
Andhra Bank	8
Bank of India	10
Bank of Maharashtra	10
Central Bank of India	10
Indian Overseas Bank	10
Syndicate Bank	11
United Bank of India	25
VCO Bank	20
Total :—	104